

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATON

Please add the following paragraph to the specification beginning at page 5 line 5:

Brief Description of the Drawings:

Figure 1 is a top view of a portion of an analytical test element.

Figure 2 is a view taken along lines 2-2 of Figure 1.

Please replace the first paragraph of page 11, beginning at line 1 with the following:

The surface coatings 18 are particularly preferably used according to the invention in analytical test elements 10 to increase the hydrophilicity. The invention therefore also concerns an analytical test element or a test strip in which the sample liquid is transported from a sample application site 12 to a determination site 14 in which a detection site lies upstream of the sample application site in the transport direction. In this connection it is important that the analytical test element 10 has at least one surface 16 which is composed of at least one element that can be oxidized with water or an alloy that can be oxidized with water which has been treated by the action of boiling water or water vapour. The materials described above come into consideration as elements and alloys.